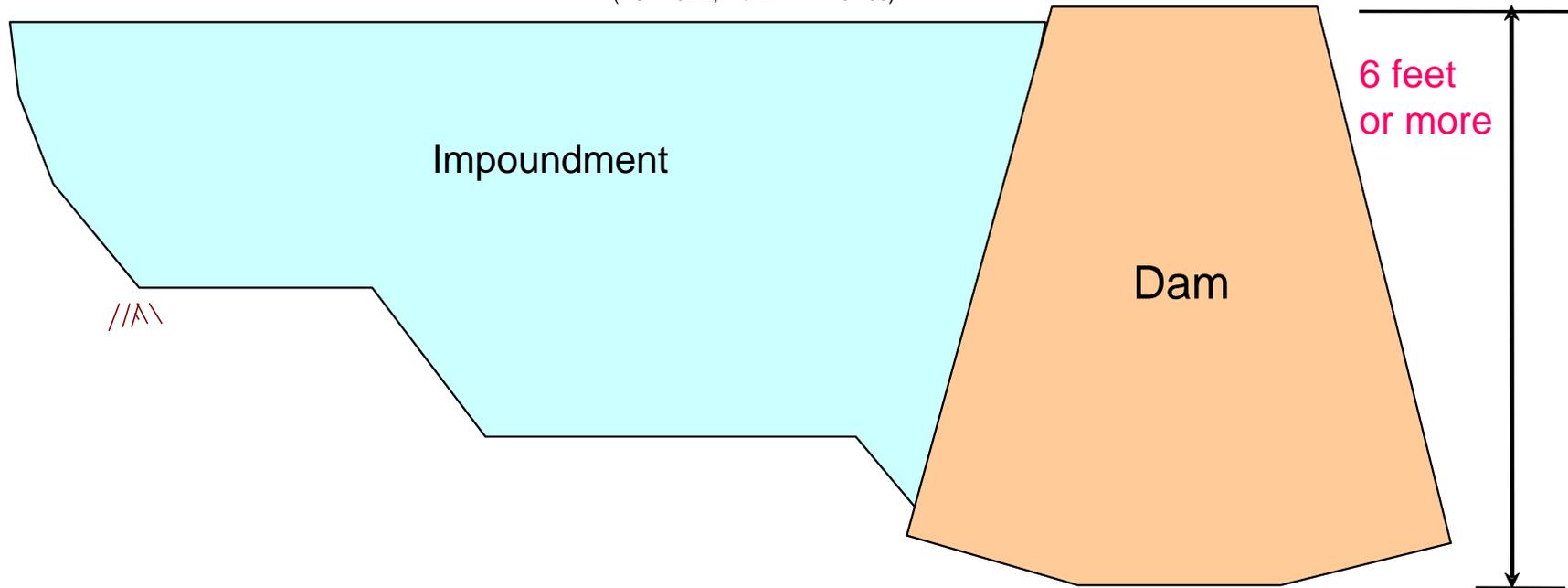


New Hampshire's Definition of a Dam

Revised 09/11/2009
(RSA 482:2, II & Env-Wr 101.09)



A Dam is any artificial barrier which impounds or diverts water which:

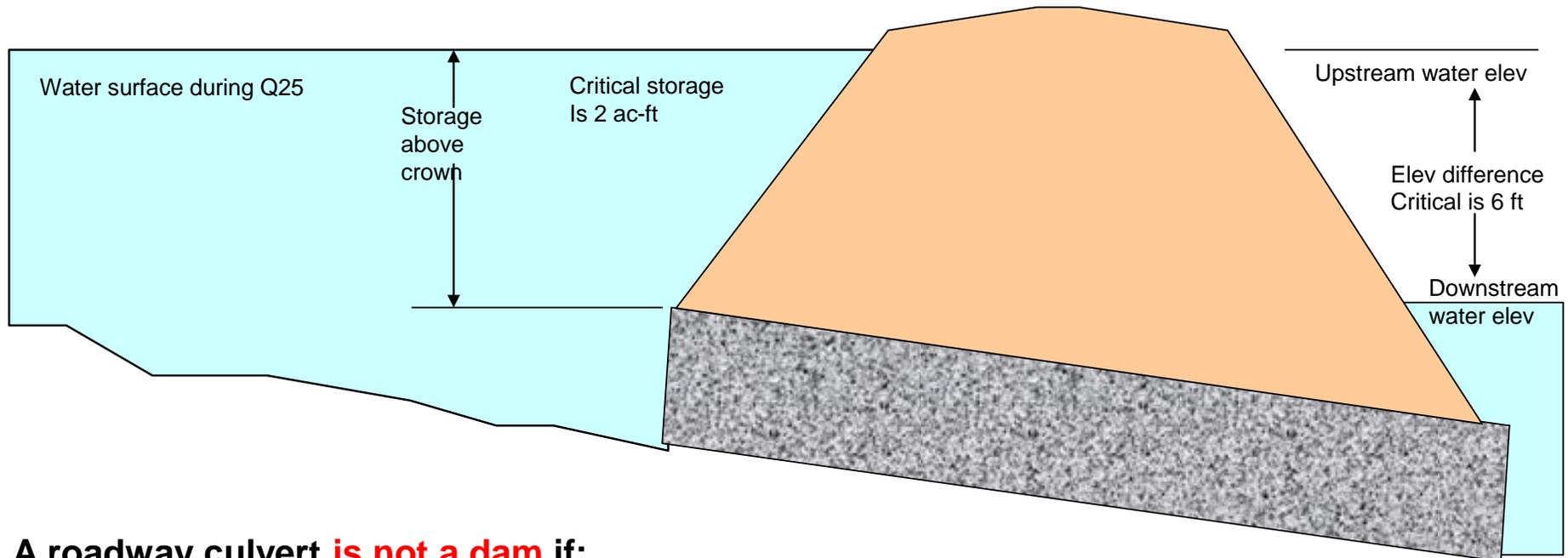
- has a height of 6 feet or more
- or
- is located at the outlet of a great pond, regardless of height or storage,
- or
- is an artificial barrier which impounds liquid Industrial or liquid commercial wastes, or septage or sewage, regardless of height or storage.

Some **Roadway Culverts** are considered dams.

Certain **Storm Water Detention Ponds** are exempted. (See attached pages)

When is a Roadway Culvert NOT a Dam?

(RSA 482:2,II, Env-Wr 101.09 &301.03)



A roadway culvert **is not a dam** if:

- its invert is at the natural streambed **and**
- it has adequate discharge capacity **and**
- it does not impound water under normal circumstances

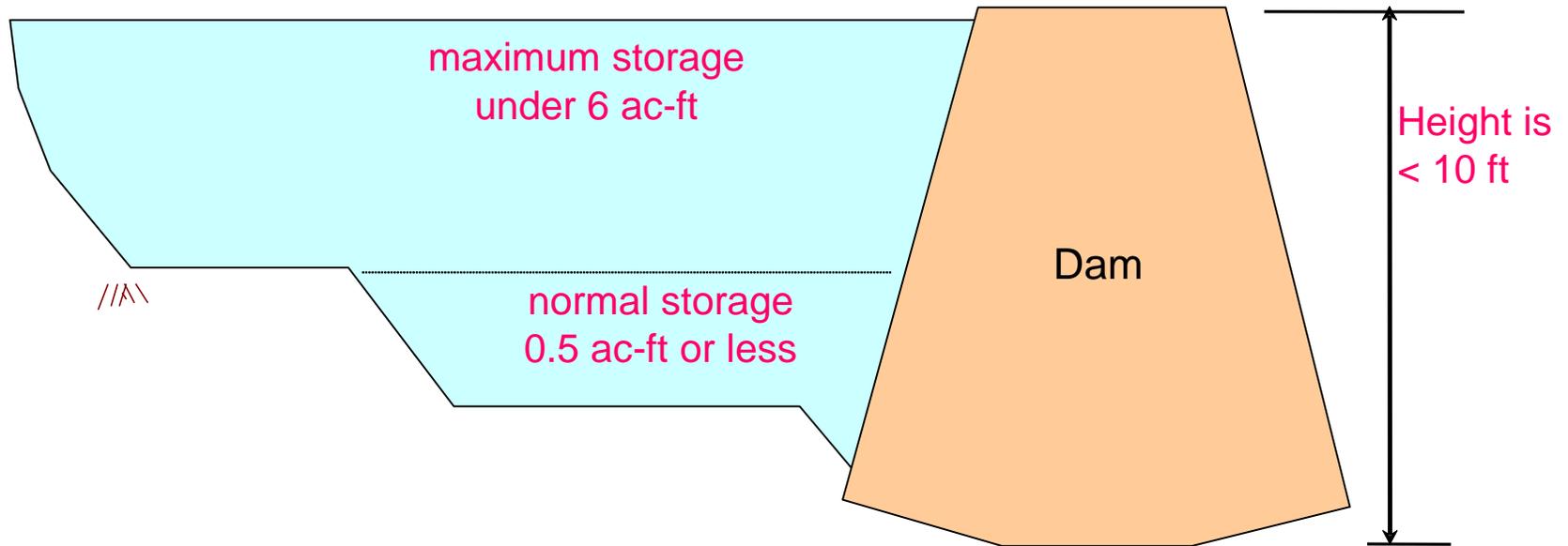
A roadway embankment whose culvert is set at the natural streambed **shall be a dam** if during the 25 year storm:

- the water surface elevation at the culvert inlet is 6 feet above the water surface elevation at the culvert outlet **and**
- It impounds 2 ac-ft or more of water over the crown of the culvert.

[The NHDES Dam Bureau Home Page:](https://www.des.nh.gov/water/dam-maintenance-and-management)

<https://www.des.nh.gov/water/dam-maintenance-and-management>

When is a Storm Water Detention Pond NOT a Dam?



An artificial barrier at a **storm water detention** which impounds 0.50 acre-feet or less of water during normal conditions, shall not be considered a dam unless its height is 10 feet or greater or its maximum storage is 6 acre-feet or greater.

Any storm water detention dam less than 6 feet in height shall not be considered a dam, regardless of maximum or normal storage.